

11-7783

9 OCT 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: E. Lyle Fisher

1. I have invited Mr. E. Lyle Fisher for lunch on Thursday, 16 October, 1 p.m. Mr. Fisher was General Counsel to the Comptroller General from the last days of OSS and all through the beginnings and growth of the Agency. He retired last summer after a severe heart attack. He is now representing the Glenn L. Martin Company in Washington in connection with their Government contracts.

2. Mr. Fisher was a firm friend of the Agency throughout his tenure with the Comptroller General, and all our major dealings with that office were through him. His support was a strong influence in obtaining our statutory authorities. If he had opposed our confidential funds authority we might well not have been given it as the Atomic Energy Commission was refused such authority on the opposition of the Comptroller General. However, Mr. Fisher emphasized our unique role and the world situation which made it so important and obtained the Comptroller General's approval of granting such authority to CIA.

3. Mr. Fisher arranged for the special audit system for those Agency expenditures reviewed by the General Accounting Office so that the audit is conducted within our walls by specified, cleared auditors. These funds are, therefore, hardly less secure than our confidential funds, and the audit is maintained almost on a current basis which is an invaluable aid in the event of exceptions. [redacted] and I kept him briefed on all major fiscal developments of the Agency and on our philosophy in the handling of our funds authorities. He reciprocated by assuring us that so long as he was there and felt these policies were being followed, the Comptroller General would

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not seek or initiate any investigation into the Agency's handling of funds.

4. Our dealings were mostly informal and few official opinions resulted. He was forced to rule against us when a pay raise was made retroactive but we were not given the retroactive authority specifically. I have no quarrel with his law on this point. On the other hand, he approved our purchase of air-conditioning equipment for the temporary buildings without specific authority in the face of a statutory prohibition. On this his law was probably wrong and he certainly took a considerable chance to help us with this problem. This, however, was typical of his normal common sense handling of the matters we took up with him. I feel we owe him a considerable debt for his support and the manner in which it was given.



LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

I have invited Lyle Fisher, former General Counsel to the Comptroller General, for lunch on Thursday, 16 October. I hope you can join us as he was a firm and powerful friend through our growing years. The attached memorandum indicates his support more specifically.

We are holding this ~~date on your pad~~


LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

CONFIDENTIAL

9 OCT 1958
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